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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

APR 21 1962

UBA RELEASES FLYER

Hijacked Pilot Tells Story

By WOODRUFF MEAD

As Told to the Associated Press

MIAMI, Fla., April 21.—"I can't tell you how scared I was and there's no way to describe the filth of that Principe Prison where they had us for a while. But I'll start at the beginning."

"I took off with two men I thought were Harold Moore

Woodruff Mead, 23, of Albertson, N. Y., has been flying for American Aviation Corp. in Miami. A week ago, he took two men up for a demonstration flight and didn't come home until last night. This is his story.

and Jim Eastham. They wanted a demonstration ride and to take moving pictures of Miami Beach. We left the Miami Airport 20 minutes after 11 on the 13th—yes, Friday the 13th; I'll never forget.

(When the three returned to Miami by commercial airliner yesterday, a week later, the FBI arrested the two passengers on charges of kidnapping and hijacking. Mr. Mead said he still didn't know the reason for his passengers' actions.)

"I was at 3,000 feet above Crandon Park area at the ocean front in Eastham, sitting new. I was trying out the controls. A couple minutes later, the what those 'islands' of us were. He said, 'see what's down there? Just then I

In the back of my car I told me to head down the coast line. (in the north)



WOODRUFF MEAD

"Then they told me to go off shore and follow a bearing of 110 degrees to Cape.

"When they pulled the
on me, Moore reached over
shut off the radio. There
no way for me to tell
what was going on."

"I hit Cuba about 30 miles east of Havana and followed highway toward town looking for a place to land. I found a cow field. I didn't know it would turn out to be a day training field. Coming up to approach I saw machine gun pointed right at me."

"We landed and I turned the engine off. A short while later took up to observe them. Then, they questioned me about two hours each. I was never doing 12 or 13

"Moore and Eastern told the Cubans they had forced me to fly to Havana. The Cubans asked me if I worked for the FBI, CIA, Immigration, and so on. They asked me if I liked 'socialismo' -- they didn't say communism.

"They told me the penalty for violating Cuban air space will be five years in jail. I was still scared.

"Finally, they took us into town to G-2 headquarters. They left us there. It must have been five days in one room with a TV set. We had milk and bread roll for breakfast. Lunch we had fried bananas, eggs, bacon, soup and coffee. For dinner I got meatballs.

I was on board during the
period of the
war.

... probably because the people
told them so. I never dreamt about
the country before hand - I would
probably have been too scared to pack up
without a car.

"There are many temples, some
Princely, scattered all over the country.
That place is unbelievable. Men
are living in hard stone houses.
The black mud walls are filthy."

"Piney - Thursday night
they were from Principio
depot. Reddumfer and
folks."

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